

PRENATAL THROUGH AGE 8 (P-8)

WHAT

The P-8 Priority is the foundation for the larger Prenatal Through Age 20 (P-20) System and establishes a robust mixed delivery system of early care and education providers, programs, and services for all learners and their families, in the P-8 continuum and intentionally builds on, and aligns with, the P-20 efforts at the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) in support of Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Goals and Strategies.

The P-8 Priority:

- focuses on families and the whole child;
- supports continuity, coherence, and support for all families and children; promotes intentional, collaborative, and aligned professional development;
- provides for seamless transitions for children through their early education;
- includes aligned and comprehensive standards, as well as uses early learner-centered preK-3 instructional practices;
- promotes deep knowledge about children's comprehensive development leading to sustained efforts, in collaboration with families, to support children's learning gains; and
- provides the foundation for durable and long-lasting family, community, and school partnerships.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

MDE acknowledges that development and learning begin before birth (i.e., prenatal) and that ensuring every child is supported from infancy, during the early years and the critical period of transition to school, and throughout the lower elementary years is essential. Research has shown that investments in high-quality early interventions (e.g., quality preschool) have positive impacts on children's overall outcomes and are correlated with higher rates of proficiency in early literacy and early mathematics in the short-term; and correlated to higher rates of graduation and gainful employment in the long-term.

In addition, as stated in Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Goal 5, MDE believes that families should be engaged and supported in their child's education. Research has shown that home visiting programs lead to stronger relationships between parents and children, as well as stronger early language and literacy skills.

Finally, a strong P-8 system has a commitment from educators serving family and early learners, prenatal through age 8, to provide support for age-appropriate, family and learner-centered instructional practices and assessment within a culture and climate setting that optimizes outcomes.

HOW YOU CAN ENGAGE YOUR DISTRICT

Identify all district's funding sources that may support P-8 programs and services and amounts currently being allocated.

Focus additional investment of district resources (e.g., Title I, 31a, General Fund) to P-8 programs and services during the early years of life from birth.

Incorporate preschool, in an age-appropriate manner, into your district's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework so there is a coherent alignment during the transitional period between early childhood and early elementary.

Identify local community partners that provide P-8 programs and services in your community and begin to develop bridges of mutual support and connection.

More information can be found at www.michigan.gov/mde-p8.

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